A TRUE ACCOUNT

FROM

CHICHESTER,

Concerning the DEATH of

Habin the Informer.

Whom, contrary to all Truth, Two Infamous and Impudent Lyars, have publiſhed to be barbarouſly Murdered: One affirming it to be done by the Diſſenters at *Chicheſter*: The other. by the Coachman of *Richard Farington*, Eſq;.

With a Relation of the moſt Malicious Deſign to make Mr. *Farington* himſelf guilty of the ſaid pretended Murder.

Publiſhed for the ſake of Truth.

TO THE

READER.

THIS Narrative had never been expos'd to publick view, had not two notorious *Sons* of the *Father* of Lies, more than once moſt falſly, and with unmatchable impudence publiſhed two late accidents at *Chicheſter*; The one concerning the Biſhops horſe, or horſes, as kill'd by the Diſſenters there; and as to one of them, to try a ſtrange and unheard-of experiment with reſpect to *Fire-balls*. But whether one or both of them be ſo killed, it muſt be judg'd as a malicious Maſſacring (to uſe the *Obſervators* term) of the Biſhop in *Effigie*. I muſt confeſs I never heard of a horſe, or any brute creature before, to be ſaid to be Maſſacred; But I have heard and read of the *Pariſian* and *Iriſh* Maſſacre; and it is neither improbable, nor incredible, that that *ſtrange* and Monſtrous Lier, who was forced not long ſince to abſcond when credible Witneſſes were ready to prove before a Parliament, that he is a Papiſt, and impreſt with deep and indelible *Roman* Sanguinary Characters, ſhould uſe no other word than that, to expreſs the killing of beaſts by;

When men of that ſtamp, make no more conſcience of Maſſacring Proteſtants, and thoſe that profeſs the pure Reformed Chriſtian Religion, than of killing of brute creatures; and ſo he thinks it's equally applicable to both. And likely 'tis, he was, and continues to be ſo much a favourer of the Popiſh-Plot to Maſſacre Proteſtants, and that this hath been ſo often, and for ſo long a time revolv'd in his thoughts, that no other word but this could occur to him, when moſt falſly he would declare to the World that they were kill'd by ſuch a ſort of people.

As for the man that ſent into the World, the *Loyal Proteſtant*, *&c.* I ſhall ſay no more concerning him, but this; That if the Biſhops horſe had ſtood at the ſame time as a convicted forger of lies, in the Pillory, as he did, he would through ſhame (as a more generous creature, having a deep reſentment of that diſhonour), ſo pined away, and grown ſo meagre and lean in a little time, that no greaſe would have been found in his belly, if the *Chicheſter* Diſſenters had ript it open. And it is no abſurdity, according to the moſt deſervedly ſtigmatized mans ſenſe, to aſſert, that a beaſt might have undergone the Pillory-puniſhment with him as a legally convicted Criminal or Malefactor, ſeeing he makes ſo happy and witty (though unheard of before) a conjunction and connection of the killing of the Biſhops horſe, with that of reaſonable creatures; as if horſes were of the ſame Species, and capable of Government by the ſame Laws, that rational Beings in this World, are.

Had we not read and heard of, and known many grand and ſhameleſs lyars beſides theſe two, I ſhould have concluded them to be the firſt begotten of him

who

who is a *Lyar*, as well as a *Murderer* from the beginning.

I will not now trouble my ſelf, nor ſpend my time, to take all their audacious and falſe reports aſunder, and make an Anſwer to every part thereof. But this I will offer to them, and to all the World, as a moſt fair and inexceptionable thing, That whereas theſe two *bundles* of *Lies*, brag and boaſt much of their Authentick and credible Intelligence from *Chicheſter*, as the ground and Warrant of what they Print concerning the killing of the Biſhops Horſe, or Horſes, and the pretended bloody Murder of the Informer *Habin*; That if they will publiſh the Names of them that ſend it to them, I will produce, *fide digni*, many more perſons, who upon Oath either before the King and his Council, or in any Court of Judicature where His Majeſty ſhall be pleaſed to appoint the Examination of this matter, ſhall make good and prove the verity of the enſuing Relation.

The Reaſon why it way publiſhed no ſooner, is, That I, to whom it was ſent, judg'd it was moſt convenient to ſee how far theſe two Enemies to Truth would proceed in their lying Relations; that ſo a plenary and complete Anſwer thereto might be made at once, to undeceive and ſatisfie all ſober and honeſt men, of what perſwaſion ſoever, in whom they have been ſo induſtrious to create a belief of the truth of that which is moſt falſe.

I would have the Reader to obſerve ſome things remarkable concerning this *Habin: Firſt*, That he was ſo profligate a wretch, and ſo prodigiouſly wicked, that he made no Conſcience of committing the ſin of Perjury: For he ſwore, That two or three

perſons

perſons brake Captain *Bicklies* Windows in *Chickeſter*, that never were among the young men that brought the Pope before his door; by vertue whereof they were Convicted as Rioters, and brought into great trouble. And 'tis ſaid, and (if I miſtake not) can be proved, That he was the man that broke them. *Secondly*, That he, with his brother *Haſted*, ſwore, That a Miniſter Preached at *Stockbridg*, near *Chicheſter*, where the Diſſenters meet every Lords-day; when I dare be bold to affirm, That they were never nearer to the place, than it is from the *Exchange* in *London*, to the *Bridge*: and ſo could not poſſibly either ſee, or hear a Miniſter Preach: Upon which a Conviction was made. And this they continued to ſwear, in order to ſuch Convictions for ſeveral Lords-days, till Divine Juſtice arreſted and ſeiſed him in the very ſame day wherein for a long time he had acted ſo wickedly and villanouſly. *Thirdly*, Whereas *N. T.* ſtiles him a Gentleman; he was ſo far from that, that no man upon earth can be more infamous, and farther from one. I deſpiſe no man for his poverty; but when deep poverty, and high iniquity meet in one man, it renders him moſt infamous and deſpicable. I know there are many true Gentlemen, not only by their Birth (whom I always rank among the moſt inferior of that kind, when abſtracted and ſeparate from what follows) but by their Breeding and Education, which doth truly enoble their minds, by the innate generoſity of their own Spirits. But none of theſe can be predicated of this *Subject*, he being but the ſink, the ſcum, an excreſcene, or if I may ſo ſpeak, the very Excrement of Humane Nature. By his Employment he was a com-

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mon Bayliff, before he was an Informer; and ſo grand a Rogue in the management thereof, that none in the Country was thought to equalize him, but his brother (in all Villany and iniquity) *Haſted*: And had not Death prevented, he would e're long have been made ſo to appear to the World, he being put into the *Crown-Office* for many prodigious Enormities and Rogueries, and would certainly have been proſecuted for the above-mention'd Perjury, when a convenient time ſhould have happen'd for it.

I will not undertake to be a bold and infallible Interpreter of Gods Providences (they being a Deep that the ſhort line of Humane Reaſon cannot ſound the bottom of, and fathom); yet as we are reaſonable Creatures, falling under the Conduct and Government thereof, ſo we are bound to obſerve them, and keeping within the bounds of modeſty, endeavour to pick out the ſenſe and meaning of them, and to know what they point at. And it is not unworthy of our obſervation, That as this Helliſh Miſcreant, and Mirrour of all impiety, had perjur'd himſelf concerning the breaking of Captain *Bickleys* Glaſs-Windows, ſo his real breaking of the Windows of another perſon (that ne're injur'd or did him wrong), ſhould prove the occaſion of his Death, and that Death ſhould hurry him into Eternity, and to Judgment, on the Lords-day, which he ſo much prophan'd, and particularly, by being ſo much in the Ale-houſe, when he ſhould have been in Gods-houſe; and diſturbing thoſe that would ſerve and worſhip God, while he did ſo much neglect the ſame. He was unexpectedly driven away that day, by Death, in his wickedneſs, and had no time given him to repent. Let *Haſted*, his brother, beware, leſt

Divine

Divine Vengeance do not ſpeedily overtake him, and Death ſuddenly, as a grim and inexorable *Serjeant*, arreſt him, and irreſiſtibly drag his reluctating wretched guilty Soul before the *Tribunal* of Gods ſevereſt Juſtice.

THE

THE

Chicheſter

ACCOUNT:

OR,

A Faithful RELATION of the DEATH of *HABIN* the INFORMER there, *&c.*

THE unhappy Accident which lately fell out in this place, and the more unhappy improvement that we perceive ſome virulent Minds and Pens make thereof, puts us under a neceſſity thus to publiſh to the World the naked and impartial Truth of that whole matter.

About Nine or Ten Weeks ſince, for the more effectual ſuppreſſing of the Conventicles here, two perſons were imployed as *Informers*, the one called *Richard Habin*, the other *Henry Haſted*. Theſe perſons poſted themſelves every Sunday upon a publick Road, which leads by the Door of one of the Conventicles, and took the Names of ſuch as they thought fit that paſſed upon that Road, and that were either going to, or coming from the place where the Conventicle was kept; and afterward did carry their Liſts to ſome Juſtices, and make Oath,

That ſuch perſons were at the Conventicle; and Warrants iſſued out, by Virtue of that Conviction, to the Conſtables, to levy the diſtreſs, which accordingly they have done on many. But our buſineſs is not to accuſe the Methods of their Proceedings, tho ſomewhat extraordinary, and what the Law it ſelf doth not command. We only wiſh, That perſons not ſo notoriouſly ſcandalous, and ſuch as had been leſs ſubject to exceptions, had been imployed in this work.

But to keep to our matter: This Trade they continued till Sunday the *6th* of *Auguſt*, on which day *Haſted* wore a Sword, and drew it on ſome Boys as they were going on the Road, ſtruck at them, and cut their Cloaths. But upon the Boys taking up ſtones, and threatning to ſtone him, if he ſheathed not his Sword again, he did return his Sword into its Scabbard: At which *Habin* was ſo angry, that he would have had the Sword from *Haſted*, ſwearing he would hew the Boys in pieces with it: but *Haſted* would not let him have it, tho he, as well as *Habin*, were both moſt miſerably drunk with *Brandy*.

The Boys ſeeing this ſavage and barbarous fierceneſs of *Habin*, threw ſome ſtones at him, and with one of them hit him, and break his head: Upon which, *Habin* entring in at the Gate of the City, next to which Mr. *Farington* dwelleth, upp'd with his ſtick, and cried out, *Farington* ſhould pay for all; and with that ſaying, ſtruck, and brake his Parlor-Window, Mr. *Farington* and Three other Gentlemen being in the Room. But Mr. *Farington* knowing there were many that ſought occaſion to entnare him, and believing this affront was done him on purpoſe to provoke him to repay it with ſome paſſionate Behaviour, would not ſo much as open his Window, or wag out of the Room.

Mr. *Farington*'s Coach-man being unhappily abroad in the ſtreet, and ſeeing this abuſe to his Maſters Houſe, went to *Habin*, and asked what he mean'd by it? who anſwer'd him only by holding up, and ſhaking his Cudgel at the Coach-man. Whereupon the Coachman immediately clapp'd within *Habin*, ſtruck up his heels, took away his ſtick, and with it hit him Four or Five blows over the Pate, and ſo left him. After which, *Habin* roſe up, and went away to the

Mayor's,

Mayor's, and miſſing the *Mayor*, to another Juſtice, to complain, and then to the *Biſhop*'s Palace; where, it is ſaid, he mended his Draught; and after his Head was dreſſed, was carried by the Biſhop's Servants, and laid in the Stable, where in two hours time he either died, or was ſo dead drunk, that he was taken for dead. However, he was preſently laid on a Bier, carried up to the High Croſs, and from thence to the *Town-Hall*; where a *Coroner*'s Inqueſt was immediately impannell'd, and found *Habin* Murdered, and the Coach-man the Murtherer, before ever (as many do believe) *Habin* was quite dead.

Nay, It is the univerſal opinion of this City, That if his Lordſhips Servants had not uſed this poor Wretch more like a Beaſt than a Man; but had, inſtead of lugging him into a cold Stable, laid him in a warm Bed, got him to be let Blood, and to have had other Remedies applied proper to his Condition, *Habin* might, for any Mortal hurt he had, have been alive at this day. But to expoſe him in this manner was enough to make him die, whether he would or no. And pray God all this haſty diſpatch was not done with a deſign to do more miſchief by his Death, than e're they could by his Life. For this is not the firſt Attempt that hath been made upon the Life and Fortune of Mr. *Farington*. But to return to our Relation: The Coach-man fled: And whether *Habin* was dead or no, we are ſure he was buried.

Thus matters continued till the end of the Week, and every man was ſo convinc'd (from the multitude of Witneſſes that ſaw the Fact), That inſtead of Murther, all men jugd'd the poor Coach-man would have *Summum jus* to be found guilty of Man-ſlaughter. For, for a Servant, upon ſo high a provocation, as the breaking his Maſters Houſe, to run up to the doer of the Injury, and in a paſſion to ſnatch away his ſtick, and lay it Four or Five times over his Ears, and it happening ſo that Death doth follow; to find ſuch a Servant guilty of ſo much as Man-ſlaughter, inclines certainly rather towards ſeverity, than clemency. But to talk of Murder, is ſuch Non-ſenſe, as you may as well call it Blaſphemy as Murder: for it hath no one ingredient of Murder in it. For Murder muſt have malice fore-thought:

Then a lying in wait, or ſeeking all occaſions to execute the Malice: and then Weapons or Inſtruments fit to ſet home that Malice to the Death of him to whom 'tis born. Neither of which can ſo much as pretendedly be faſtened upon this poor unfortunate Coach-man. And yet in the Proof of this matter, you will ſee, that not the Coach-man only, but his *Maſter* too, was ſtrongly endeavour'd to be brought in guilty of Murder.

For on *Saturday* Morning, the Recorder (who had been all this while abſent from the City) returned; and then the Lord Biſhop and he, cauſed *Habin's* Grave to be opened, the Coroners Inqueſt to be new ſummoned to the Biſhops Palace, and to be new ſworn again, *ſuper viſum Corporis*, with a higher aim now, and not ſo much to make the Man as the Maſter the Murderer: for commanding his Man to do it. In order hereunto, one *Creſſingham* was gotten to ſwear, That he ſaw Mr. *Farington* look out at his Window and bid his Man beat *Habin* ſoundly. But the *Jury* on inquiry could not find any body that ſaw *Creſſingham* ſo much as in the ſtreet where the Fact was committed. Nor could *Creſſingham* name any perſon that he ſaw there, tho the ſtreet was full of people, ſave only one, and he proved ſo far from being in the ſtreet, that unluckily he did not ſo much as riſe from his Bed all that day, till after the Fact was done, as both himſelf, and ſeveral others did teſtifie.

Nay, divers affirm, That *Creſſingham* was aſleep at his Mothers Houſe, in another quarter of the City, when this unfortunate Fact was done; and that *Creſſingham* roſe not up till it was told him what the Coach-man had done to *Habin*. And among the reſt, *Creſſingham's* own Mother aver'd to Nine or Ten ſubſtantial perſons, That if her Son had ſworn he ſaw the Fact, he was a forſworn Rogue, for that he was aſleep at her houſe till ſome Neighbours came in, and told him that *Habin* was dead; tho ſome ſay, That after old *Goody Creſſingham* had been invited and Dined with the Biſhop, ſhe began to mince her Confeſſion as much as ſhe could. And *Creſſingham's* Mothers Houſe is at utterly out of ſight of any thing done at Mr. *Farington's* Door, as if it ſtood in *Cheapſide*. Wherefore after they had lock'd

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up the Inqueſt in the *Biſhop*'s Palace from Eleven of the Clock till Four, and none permitted to go to them but whom the Biſhop pleaſed; nay ſome of the *Jury* threatned by the Biſhop, that if they did not find *Farington* Guilty, he would have them before the King and Council: Yet notwithſtanding the *Inqueſt* were of opinion to acquit Mr. *Farington*, unleſs *Creſſingham*'s Teſtimony was ſupported by ſome other. The Cauſe being thus juſt ready to fall, they deſired the Inqueſt to Adjourn till Eight of the Clock on Monday, which accordingly they did, and by that time further Evidence ſhould be gotten.

To have Evidence to get on *Saturday* night, that muſt be uſed on *Monday* Morning, one would think requires great dexterity to gain them; and yet that Night a little Prentice-Boy, of about 13 or 14 years old, was haled away from his Maſters Houſe by two *Publicans* before the *Mayor* and the *City-Juſtices*, where we will not ſay by what Arts he was made, an made to Swear that he ſaw both Mr. *Farington* and *Creſſingham* too, when *Hab n* was Beat. But of this we are ſure, that when the Boy was called before the Inqueſt, he better remembred himſelf, and did upon his Oath deny that he ſaw Mr *Farington* there, or *Creſſingham* either; and yet afterwards the Boy was prevailed upon to unſwear that: and to ſwear that he ſaw *Creſſingham* there, but not Mr *Farington*: Some honeſt-minded people bid the Lad as he went by them, to conſider what he Swore, and to be ſure to Swear the truth; which made his Mother run up and down like one mad, raving and crying, *My Son ſhall Swear for the Lord Biſhop*, *My Son ſhall Swear for the Lord Biſhop*; *I would not for* ten pound *but he ſhould* Swear *for my Lord* Biſhop: *For I have the moſt part of my Livelyhood from my Lord.* Which furious paſſion in the Woman made People ſtare and wonder at her, and the Biſhop both; and raiſed more doubts in mens minds, than it is convenient to mention. For if *Engliſh* Ears hear any Body to Swear upon ſuch occaſions for any others but for the King and Truth, they ſtraight grow jealous, and fear foul play.

The Inqueſt being greatly diſſatisfied in their Judgments concerning the Evidence that *Creſſingham* and the Boy had given, as diſagreeing with each other, and neither of them well agreeing with themſelves; and having a Cloud of other Credible Subſtantial

ſtantial and Unſuſpected Witneſſes, that ſaw all the Action from firſt to laſt, whoſe Teſtimony ſeemed more Concurrent and Agreeable to Reaſon; The Jury like diſcreet Men, and ſuch as were willing to ſearch every thing to find out the Truth, Reſolved they would go and view the place themſelves where this accident happened; which accordingly they did, and found that in the place where *Creſſingham* Swore he ſtood when he ſaw Mr. *Farington* look out at the Window, and commanded his man to beat *Habin*, it was utterly impoſſible for *Creſſingham* or any Man elſe to ſee Mr. *Farington* (or any other) look out at the Window. So that returning to the Town-hall, (where the Jury that day ſate) fully ſatisfied, they would not hear any more Witneſſes (though a great many more were preſent, and offered themſelves to Swear), but immediately gave in their Verdict, wherein every man did acquit Mr. *Farington*. It appearing to them by the Oaths of Perſons (againſt whom there was no exception) that Mr. *Farington* was ſo far from commanding his man to beat *Habin*, that he was Extreamly angry with his man for doing of it. Thus ended this matter.

The next day this young Apprentice was taken from his Maſter, by the Biſhop, into his Houſe; Whether for fear the Boy ſhould blab the Threats and Arts that have been exerciſed on him, to draw him to do what he did; or to be better inſtructed in the new and modiſh ſcience now in faſhion, they beſt know that did it; tho the Boys Mother doth give out already, that her Son ſhall yet Swear for my Lord Biſhop againſt Mr. *Farington* for all this: We only can ſay, that this we are ſure of from ſeveral honeſt Perſons, that the Child did nothing but Cry, and ſay he was threatned to Swear what he did, till Mr. *Farington* was acquitted; and that then he did nothing but leap and expreſs an high paſſion of joy for it; and if upon his coming under his Lordſhips Roof, the Boy aſſumed another nature, 'tis only a proof, that miracles are not ceaſed.

Creſſingham the Witneſs was formerly a Choriſter; but having not honeſty enough to continue in the Office (which generally doth not require over-much) he was expell'd the Quire, and is now ſo indigent and Infamous, that his Credit will not paſs for *Twelve pence*; whether he be to be reſtored on this performance,

ſormance, or that he is to ſucceed *Habin* in the Office of an Informer; Or that ſome other way is to be found out to reward his merit in this matter, time muſt ſhew.

In the mean while all Wiſe and Sober Men wonder exceedingly, that my Lord Biſhop would meddle (with ſuch eager and vehement concern) in a Sanguinary Caſe, from which by Law that great Dignity is Exempted; and do think that his Lordſhip had better conſulted the honour of the Church, and his own Reputation alſo, if he had ſhewed himſelf more cool and temparate in this matter. For though my Lord hath a very great kindneſs for Sir *John Farington* (Mr. *Farington*'s Brother) yet to ſhew it ſo mightily upon ſuch odd occaſions, hath done no great Service to his Lordſhip, nor Sir *John* neither. For people do publickly ſay, That *ſub dio*, or in the Church Porch whitherto all perſons might freely reſort, had been a much more proper place for a Coroners Inqueſt to have ſate, than under Lock and Key in a Biſhops Palace; eſpecially too in ſuch a Palace where the Biſhop and his Predeceſſors have denied themſelves to be within the Liberty of the City, and refuſed to pay their Poors Tax; whereupon many Suits and Differences have aroſe.

Wherefore upon the whole, we judg all men will ſee as little reaſon to lay this Accident on Mr. *Farington*, as ſome Gentlemen had to lay the wounding of his Lordſhips Coach-horſes, n our Diſſenters. For the Horſes were at Graſs ſeven Miles diſtant from this City, and in all probability were Goared by ſome of the fatting Cattel among which they fed. For beſides, that it is contrary to the common Charity which Chriſtianity obligeth us to have for all men, to believe ſo ill of any without ſome proof: So is it alſo manifeſtly oppoſite to Reaſon to credit, that if any mans Rage and Malice ſhould have carried him ſo many Miles to have miſchiefed his Lordſhips Horſes, that he would not have done it throughly, and kill'd them on the ſpot, rather than to have given them ſuch ſlight wounds as every ſilly Smith could Cure; for be it known to the World, his Lordſhips Horſes are alive again, and as well as ever, and the Perſons that wrought their Cure would think themſelves jeered to be called by ſo much as the Name of *Farriers*.

'Tis true, there was an Oath about to have been made by a Right *Iriſh* Evidence, That one Mr. *Nevill* had wounded his Lordſhips Horſes. But juſt then hearing that the Gentleman was above Fifty Miles diſtant from the place, he held his blow, and we have unluckily miſs'd that able Teſtimony; yet we are ſo far from having that uncharitable thought, that this perſon had any particular Malice in his Oath againſt Mr *Nevill*, that we do believe in our Conſciences that for a *Guinney* more he would have Swore the *Morocco Embaſſador* had done it; and we do alſo believe that if he had Sworn to, he had ſaid as much Truth, as any of thoſe Gentlemen that have publiſhed that matter. And ſo much for the Horſes.

But leſt any ſhould think that we ſpeak this in favour of *Diſſenters*, we muſt crave leave to ſay, That we are, and are known to be for the Church of *England*; and could heartily wiſh that Diſſenters would leave off Conventicling, and come to Church; as on the other hand we could alſo wiſh that there were leſs bitterneſs in our Pulpits to invite them thither and that our little dapper *Clergy-Wights* would not keep ſuch a Whigling, nor give them ſo juſt occaſion from their ill prating and worſe living, to keep from thence: For this we may ſay for our Diſſenters, That abate their fault of not coming to Church, they are dutiful and peaceable to the Government, and friendly and neighbourly to their fellow Subjects; and in the general conduct of their Converſation, of very good Morals.

This is the true and candid Account of this Matter; to all which if you add the Biſhops diſpleaſure againſt Mr. *Farington* for managing the Suits of his Pariſh againſt him, and the Recorders rage for his being choſen a Parliament-man for this City, and the mighty dearneſs that is between both them and Sir *John Farington*, and you will be ſo far from wondering that ſo induſtrious a Venom was laid out againſt him, that you will rather admire that any Innocency could preſerve him. But God be thanked, to the great joy of this City we can apply the Words of the Royal Prophet, *The Snare is broken, and he is delivered.*

FINIS.

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